



3 November 2006

**Veterans Day
Holiday Weekend Safety**

1. Veterans Day is observed to honor the men and women who selflessly and bravely fought our Nation's battles, and to thank those who continue to defend our freedom and way of life. Soldiers in the Army in Europe can be proud of being among the millions who have given freely of themselves throughout history to preserve the precious liberties we enjoy today.
2. We will celebrate Veterans Day with a 4-day holiday weekend from 10 through 13 November. The long weekend provides a great opportunity for us to relax and recharge ourselves as well as contemplate our place in American history. It is also a good time for us to remind ourselves of our duties and responsibilities.
3. To effectively carry out our missions, we must understand, accept, and execute our duties with precision and professionalism. This involves using restraint when needed, careful planning, and looking out for one other. It also means exercising situational awareness and recognizing and mitigating the risks we encounter every day.
4. During the upcoming holiday weekend, I ask all of you to use good judgment and practice risk management. If you plan on traveling, be sure to assess the risks associated with your trip. Keep in mind that excessive speed, alcohol use, and fatigue are common factors in accidents, and failing to wear seatbelts increases your chance of being injured or killed in case of an accident. Do not allow yourself to become a statistic. Take time to think through your plans, then do the right thing for yourself, your battle buddies, and your family.
5. I wish each of you a safe holiday and I thank you for your continued selfless commitment to our Nation and our Army. Enjoy the well-deserved time away from the workplace, but do not lose sight of your responsibilities and never let down your guard. Know your limits and recognize the potential consequences of your intended actions. *Own the Edge!*

DAVID D. McKIERNAN
General, USA
Commanding

McKIERNAN SENDS #4-07